Pending demands of AFHQ Stenographers

2658. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of demands concerning AFHQ Stenographers are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time since when it is pending; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Armed Forces Headquarters Stenographers Association has been making representations concerning carrier prospects of its members from time to time. The decisions taken on such representations were communicated to the Association from time to time. Presently, creation of additional posts in the grade of Principal Private Secretary, and the introduction of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for induction of graduate PAs in the grade of Assistant Civilian Staff Officer (ACSO) are the two main issues raised by the Association.

(c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission has also made recommendations on both the above issues which are being processed for implementation.

Introduction of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination

2659. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended introduction of an L.D.C.E. in ACSO grade of AFHO Civil Services'on the basis of C.S.S.;

(b) whether such an introduction was accepted by Government earlier in 1985, 1988 and 1995;

(c) if so, the reasons for these decisions at each time;

(d) whether Government propose to implement the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission; and

(e) if so, the time likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question of opening the avenue of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for PAs for induction in the Assistant Civilian Staff Officer (ACSO) grade has been examined earlier on more than one occasion. However, no final decision could be taken because the matter involved conflicting interests and remained subjudice due to pending litigation.

(d) and (e) Amendment to the relevant rules is being processed to facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. As interdepartmental consultation is involved no time limit can be specified.

Agitation against use of powerful explosives by BRO

2660. SHRI KARMA TOPDEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of North Sikkin have been agitating against the indiscriminate use of powerful explosives by the Border Roads. Organisation resulting in the destabilisation of the whole area being mountaineous and also destroying the rich natural environment of the area;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to curb these type of man made destruction of ecology and environment in the entire Himalayan belt in view of the recent calamities which occurred in the UP. Hills?